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## **Media Release**

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### **Gold Rush Carnival to proceed but behind closed doors**

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Gold Rush Carnival will commence on Thursday April 2 and whilst there will still be plenty of action on the track with seven race meetings in eleven days and a host of feature races it will be a very quiet and somewhat sombre affair off track.

As a result of Victoria being declared a state of emergency and with restrictions on large gatherings, Greyhound Club's Victoria and Greyhound Racing Victoria have placed significant attendance restrictions on all greyhound race meetings for the duration of the state of emergency which at this point is until midnight April 13.

Like most sports, greyhound racing in Victoria will see race meeting attendances limited to those deemed necessary to attend, being trainers (or trainers representative) of runners engaged at the meeting, catchers, officials, accredited media and essential staff.

The attendance restrictions have forced the BGRA to make the decision in the interest of public health and well being to cancel all off track promotions and events over the Gold Rush Carnival including various functions and the major kids and family activities on Easter Saturday and Sunday.

"It is unfortunate to have to cancel what has become an annual and iconic event on the local calendar however public safety and the well being of our participants is the priority in the current climate and the decision in the end was an easy one" said BGRA Manager Troy Harley.

Racing is set to continue in the immediate future albeit with no patrons and no on course betting facilities after the TAB announced yesterday that it will not be providing operators on track during the attendance restricted time period.

"It is essential for our participants who rely on participation for a variety of reasons including income to continue for as long as possible. Racing has equally significant economic benefits in these troubling times and the restrictions in place will enable racing to continue until such time further Government and medical advice requires further changes" added Harley

The BGRA is planning to provide information from the track via social media on feature days so that punters are armed with up to date information. It should also be noted that Sky 2 is free to all homes as part of the standard Foxtel package from March 26 providing improved access to more racing coverage.